THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Mustard oilseeds production

†1859. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the rabi crop, production of mustard oilseeds has been estimated to be more in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, the estimated total production of this year and to what extent it is more than that of the last year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NAFED has decided to purchase mustard containing eight per cent moisture at minimum support price;

(d) if so, whether due to irregularity of rains the moisture in the mustard produced in rabi is upto 9 to 10 per cent; and

(e) if so, the provisions made to purchase the mustard containing such an excessive moisture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) As per the second advance estimates for 2004-05, the production of rapeseed/mustard is estimated at 75.89 lakh tonnes which is 17.57 lakh tonnes or 30.13% more than the estimated production in 2003-04.

(c) NAFED is the nodal agency of Government of India for procurement of oilseeds and pulses under Price Support Scheme. Under the scheme, NAFED's mandate is to procure mustardseed confirming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications stipulated by Government of India. As per FAQ norms, maximum tolerance limit of moisture content is 8% for mustardseed within which procurement is made.

(d) and e) The moisture content in the initial arrival of mustardseed in mandies generally remains higher at the level of 14-18% which comes down to the FAQ level of 8% as the day temperature increases. Accordingly,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

every effort is being made to ensure that mustardseed with moisture content meeting FAQ level is procured.

Agricultural Policy

†1860. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new agricultural policy keeping in view the interests of the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will be helpful for the Indian farmers; and

(d) the effective steps to be taken by Government to implement the said policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) No, Sir. The National Agricultural Policy was formulated in July, 2000.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotion of Organic Farming

1861. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for creation of regional centre at Nagpur for the promotion of organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (d) Government has sanctioned a new Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004 for production, promotion and market development of Organic Farming in the country by subsuming the existing infrastructure of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.